



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 34, No. 4

Fourth Quarter, 1998

Whole No. 129

President's Report

Jim Crumpacker

P.O. Box 1836

Las Vegas, NV 89125

Do we need the United States Postal Service? By "we" I mean CZSG and am certainly not referring to ourselves as taxpaying individuals. Many of you are aware that the Postal Service co-sponsors the really large stamps shows with the APS. The sharing of monetary expenditure means the two parties are not equals, the fat purse of the USPS now dominates the physical organization and operation of the shows.

In both the case of PACIFIC 97 in San Francisco and the annual large APS show (this year in Santa Clara, CA) the internal booths layout in the convention halls was under the purview of the USPS to the discomfiture and annoyance of both dealers and CZSG members. In the former case no chairs were allowed in the show halls ("fire safety reasons" said some of badged staff), in the latter case visitors got a high chair but no bib. The cover dealers were the losers more so than the booth holders who offered stamps only; the patient, quiet cover examination which normally interacts with lower booth counter tops lost out to many a bad back or neck. Heaven help you if you wanted to look for a thin spot or a flyspeck on a stamp, either. Of course, any observer who reads the letters of complaint in the various weekly and monthly philatelic publications will quickly realize that many collectors are giving up the

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Meeting Notice

The CZSG will hold a meeting during:

ARIPEX in Tucson, AZ on Saturday, January 23, at 2:00 p.m.

SANDICAL 99 in San Diego, CA, Jan. 29-31.

AMERICAS 99 in Orlando, FL, Feb. 25-28. Please consult the program for day, time and room location.

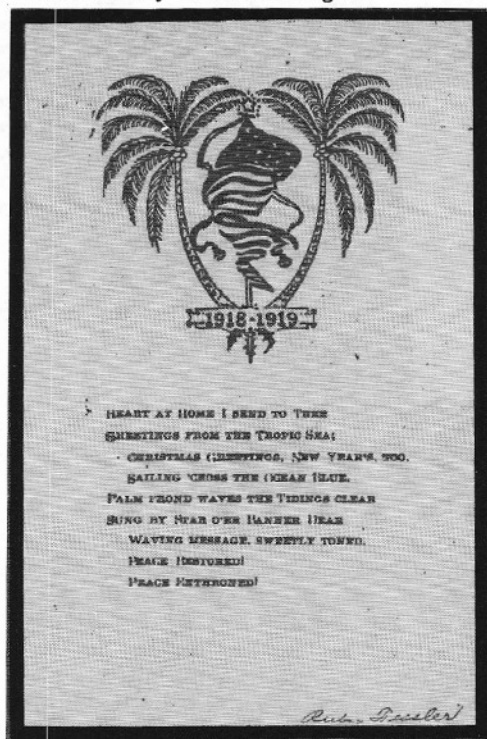
WESTPEX 99, San Francisco, CA, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness at Geary, April 16-18, CZSG meeting Saturday, April 17 at 1 p.m.

New Christmas Postal Card

By Irwin J. Gibbs

Postal Stationery Editor

We are in the Holiday Season and what could be more appropriate than to discover a new Christmas Card on the 80th Anniversary of its mailing.



The card is post-marked December 14, 1918 - Balboa Heights, Canal Zone. Betty Stergion forwarded a copy of the 1918 card printed in red, green and dark blue on UX4-(S-11).

The heart warming message reads:

Heart at Home I send to thee
Greeting from the Tropic Sea,
Christmas Greetings, New Year's too
Sailing 'cross the Ocean Blue
Palm frond waves the Tidings clear
Sun by Star o'er Banner Dear
Waving message, sweetly toned,
Peace Restored!
Peace Enthroned!

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NORTH ATLANTIC CATAPULT AIRMAIL FROM THE CANAL ZONE

By David J. Leeds*
and James W. Graue**

Introduction

In the period 1929 - 1935, airmail was flown by small float planes catapulted from the North German Lloyd lines *Bremen* and *Europa*, thereby advancing the receipt of trans-North Atlantic mail by up to two days. Numerous nations of Europe contracted for the acceptance of their airmail for this service, but the airmail for the eastbound flights to Europe was almost all from the United States, with only a few other acceptances taken either as a courtesy or with United States stamps to pay the catapult airmail charge.

Only two catapult covers originating in the Canal Zone have been noted (others may exist unrecorded). They differ sharply, as we shall see. Both were flown by catapult flights from the *Bremen*, but this is only a coincidence.

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Happy Holidays

The Canal Zone

Philatelist

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Winners:

Greater Toronto Stamp Show, the Canadian National Exposition, Toronto, October 16-18, Grand and Gold to Ray Ireson for "The Panama Canal Story". This is the third Grand award that the exhibit has won. Since significant change or improvement must be shown on a re-entry of a Grand exhibit for competition, the additional Grands indicate great strength of the exhibit. Congratulations!

Omaha Stamp Show, Omaha [Nebraska] Philatelic Society, September 4-6, Vermeil to Robert C. Dreibus for "Canal Zone Errors and Varieties".

David J. Smith won a silver award at **THAMESPEX** for his exhibit entitled: "Canal Zone Postal Cards (1907-1978)".

New Christmas Postal Card

(Continued from page 29)

Over the last several years, members of the Study Group have reported a number of Christmas Greetings. The cards were sold in the Commissary Stores and were printed at the Mt. Hope Printing Plant. Articles in the *Philatelist* have described the cards (see 19:12; 57:25, 31-32; 60:23; 69:25, 30; 70:8; 106:7), but no complete list has been compiled since several cards had not been reported. With the discovery of the 1918 card, it is now possible to report 12 designs on 14 different Canal Zone Postal Cards.

The cards are all printed on UX4 (S10 and S11) as well as UX5 (S12). A complete listing follows. The 1917 card, if indeed there was one, has still not been discovered.

Due to recent discoveries, the numbering presented herein is revised compared to those previously published in *The Postal Stationery of The Canal Zone*; UPSS, 1985 Edition. The next edition should reflect these changes.

If you have any other cards or earlier dates of use please notify the editor.

CHRISTMAS POSTAL CARDS

UPSS No.	Year	Back	UPSS Card Used	Description	Earliest Reported Date
CS 1	1913	A	S10	red, green & black	-----
CS 2	1914	B	S10	red, green	Dec. 12, 1914
CS 3	1915	C	S10	red, green, gray & black	Dec. 15, 1915
CS 4	1916	D	S11	red, green & black	Dec. 11, 1916
CS 5	1917	----	----	-----	-----
CS 6	1918	E	S11	red, green & dark blue	Dec. 14, 1918
CS 7	1919	F	S11	red, green & black	-----
CS 8	1920	G	S11	red, green & black	Dec. 14, 1920
CS 9	1921	H	S11	red, green & black	Dec. 15, 1921
CS 10	1921	H	S12	red, green & black	Dec. 12, 1921
CS 11	1922	J	S11	red, green & black	Dec. 10, 1922
CS 12	1922	J	S12	red, green & black	Dec. 03, 1922
CS 13	1922	K	S11	red, green & black	Dec. 09, 1922
CS 14	1923	L	S11	red, olive & black	Dec. 12, 1923
CS 15 *		M	S11	red, green	

* Mint card - could be 1917

(Continued on page 31)

Earliest Use of Postage Due Dry Printings (Scott Nos. J25a and J27a)

G.B. Weiss

The Scott Catalog and *Canal Zone Stamps* both note the development of dry printings (replacing wet printings of most BEP stamps) in the late 1950s and these are now recognized as distinct issues. Little attention was paid at the time and no official notice was given as to dates of issue. The previous earliest use of J27a was reported as April 4, 1961 in *The Canal Zone Philatelist* (100:20, 1991). The new discovery is a cover from Australia going into the Canal Zone on August 23, 1958. It beats the previous record by almost three years. It has 7c in postage due using a wet printing of the 2c (J26) and a 5c dry printing and is illustrated in Fig. 1.

The earliest usage of the 1c is a pair off cover dated December 21, 1959 and shown in Fig. 2. These dates may still be surpassed. Please report any earlier usages to the editor.

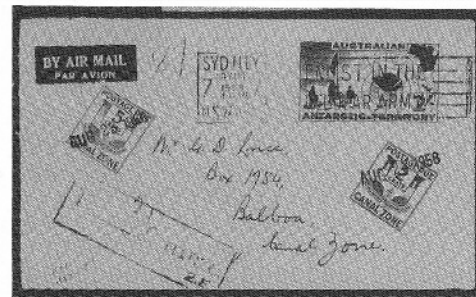


Fig. 1. Scott No. J27a used August 23, 1958

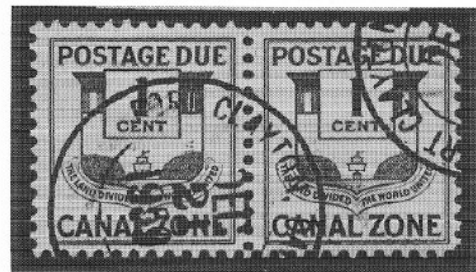
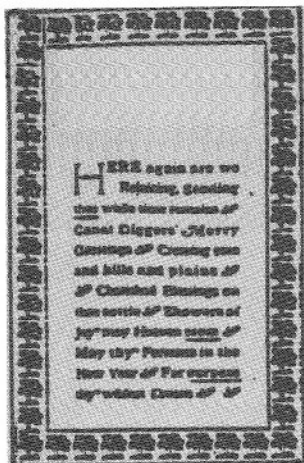


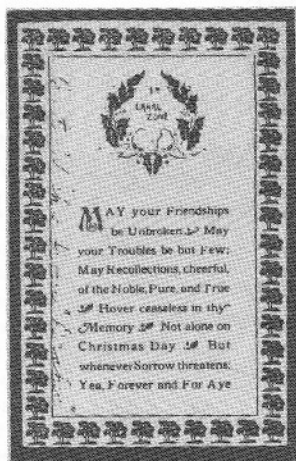
Fig. 2. Scott No. J25a used December 21, 1959

Do you have unusual Canal Zone? Write the Editor!

CANAL ZONE CHRISTMAS CARDS
Printed at Mt. Hope



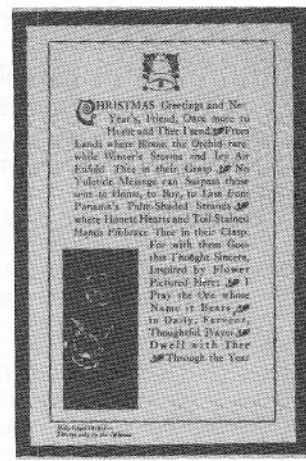
**A
1913**



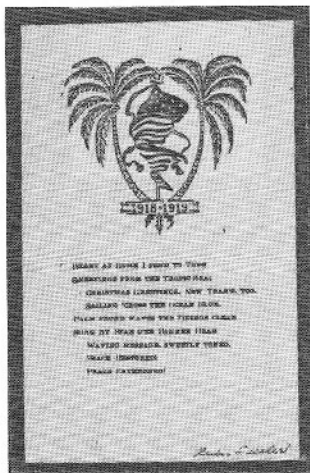
B
1914



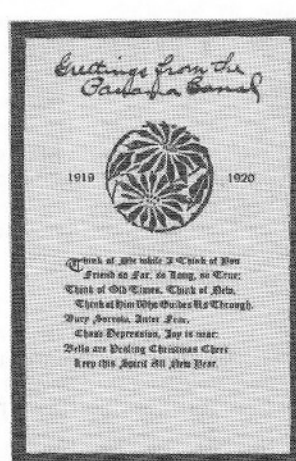
C
1915



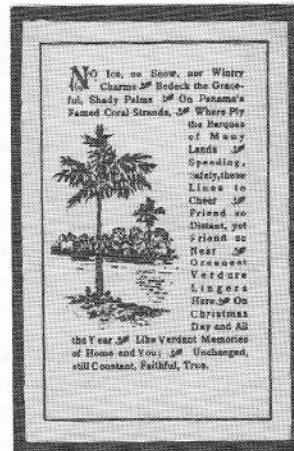
**D
1916**



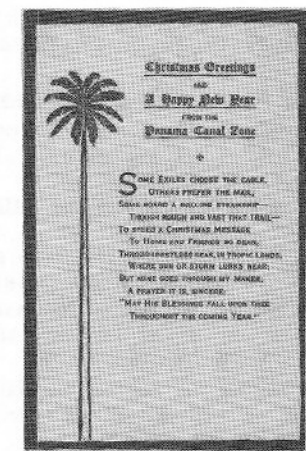
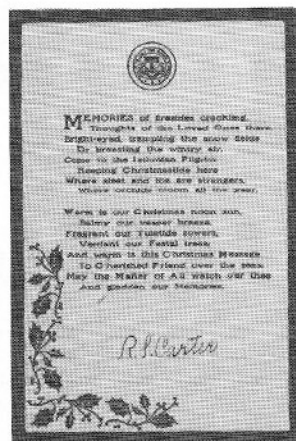
E 1918



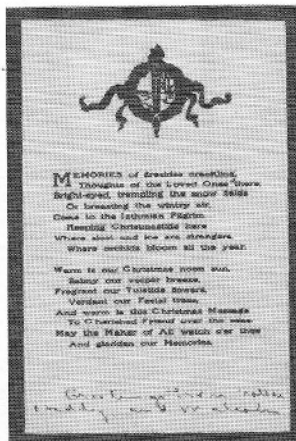
**F
1919**



**G
1920**

H
1921

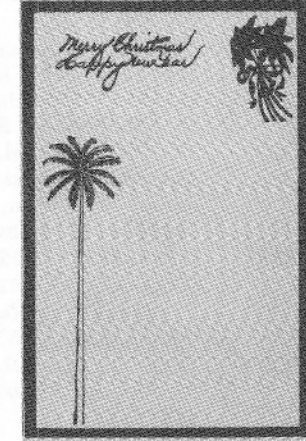
**J
1922**



K
1922



L
1923



M

President's Report (Continued from page 29)

hobby rather than pursue the mass of philatelic material issued by the USPS.

It must be admitted the USPS does just fine with the likes of Sylvester and Tweety Bird. Their publicity arm attracts to shows newcomers both young and old who like to do fancy things with, or commit crimes upon, triangular stamps. However, as the representative of a "dead" country the Canal Zone Study Group would seem to obtain only minimal long term benefit. One wonders how many others APS affiliates feel the same way.

The Panama Canal Opening stamp from the USPS Celebrate the Century series was a boon to our event cover producers and general membership. Let's hope the Postal Service can find more to do for us before 2014.

USPS is presently involved with the APS only in a very limited number of high profile shows. Am I blaming the wrong party? Are the USPS and ASDA indicted co-conspirators rather than victims? The public statements by the APS leadership are not necessarily revealing. Late word comes in to the effect that a compromise has been reached: For future major shows dealers will have a choice, either inclusion in a section of counters or in a section of tables. If you have an opinion about your needs, why not let the APS hear from you?

My thanks to Jerry Craig and family, Dick Bates and other laborers in the vineyards for their efforts pertaining to the successful completion of the 1998 CZSG Mail Sale. The only negative was that Dick Salz outbid me for a coveted "Perf. P" Airmail stamp. He has expressed contrition and will do penance by volunteering to run the 1999 CZSG Mail Sale, the upmteenth time he has carried out this task. Happy New Year to all.

Scott No. 13 ERD

C.Z. dealer Ray Coughlin reports a new ERD of February 11, 1934 on Scott No. U13, UPSS No. 39. Make a note of this in your UPSS catalog. Thanks Ray for this new one.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).			
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3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in item 15d, e, and f.			
4. If the publication has second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, the Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published. It must be printed in any issue of October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.			
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6. Item 17 must be signed.			
Failure to file or prepare a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.			
PS Form 3526, September 1998 (Use Instructions on Reverse)			

North Atlantic Catapult Airmail (Continued from page 29)

Cristobal, Canal Zone to Holland, June 1932

The first cover, Fig. 1, bears the corner card of an Amsterdam shipping line and a Cristobal Paquebot postmark (Entwistle P-2A) June 15, 1932, 6 AM, indicating that it was in mails received from an incoming ship. The Canal Zone postage is 5 cents (international letter rate) plus 20 cents for airmail service to New York. Contemporary United States stamps totaling 20 cents paid the full rate for a catapult airmail letter from the United States: 5 cents international letter rate plus 15 cents for the catapult airmail service. Thus, the letter is over franked by 5 cents, but a reasonable misunderstanding of the rate since the catapult airmail may have been quoted or understood as 20 cents inclusive rate. All of the stamps are canceled with the Cristobal duplex.



**Fig. 1. Canal Zone to Holland,
Bremen Catapult Flight, 1932.**

The sender typed the routing directions at the top "Via New York" and "Via M.S. Europa/Bremen Airplane Ship to Shore". The latter indicated that the letter was to be carried on either ship, which ever it first reached. The "Airplane Ship to Shore" direction was partially struck with the violet three-bar *jusqu'a* marking used in New York, but the reason this was done is not clear, as only the U.S. airmail service ended at that point. In any event, its application did not effect its later treatment.

The *Bremen* departed from New York on June 23. The cover received the German catapult flight cachet, applied by German seapost office on the ship. The catapult flight was made by Flight Captain Grütering with the Heinkel 58 float plane D-1919 *Bremen* on June 27 launched

at 8 AM and landing at Southampton at 3:40 PM after a flight of 1064 kilometers. Since this cover was bound for Holland, it was retained on the float plane which then proceeded to fly from Southampton to its Bremerhaven base, via Amsterdam, where the catapult airmail destined for the Netherlands was air dropped at the Schiphol Airport. The cover is arrival backstamped "Wageningen 28.VI.-7/1932".

Balboa Heights, Canal Zone to New York, Forwarded to Berlin, July 1935

The second cover, Fig. 2, was posted from Balboa Heights on July 12, 1935, with a total of 35 cents in Canal Zone postage (10 cents over franked), addressed to New York. It was sent by Balboa Postmaster R. Graham. The New York address was subsequently crossed out and a Berlin address typed in, with manuscript "forward to" added.



**Fig. 2. Canal Zone to Germany,
Bremen Catapult Flight, 1935**

The cover bears a private directional marking:

VIA S.S. BREMEN
SHIP TO SHORE
AIRMAIL

No additional postage was applied, and the cover was accepted for forwarding and accorded catapult airmail flight service.

This cover was sent via the *Bremen* departing New York on July 27, 1935. The delay in forwarding is notable, probably about ten days. The prior eastbound catapult airmail service was from the *Europa* which departed New York on July 17. It is probable that the cover arrived in New York too late to make connection with the *Europa*, so it was held and forwarded later to connect with the

Bremen. Earlier forwarding would have sent it by surface, as that would have been faster than waiting for the *Bremen*.

The direction marking "Mit Vorausflug Southampton" and the flight cachet were applied by the German seapost office on the ship. The catapult flight was made by Flight Captain Diele with the Junkers 46 float plane D-UHYL *Bremen* on July 31, launched at 6:00 AM and landing at Southampton at 1:02 PM after a flight of 1,152 kilometers. The Catapult airmail was transferred to a Deutsche Lufthansa airplane at Croydon for the flight directly to Berlin that afternoon. The cover is arrival backstamped "Berlin C2 1.8.35, 17".

This Canal Zone acceptance is listed by Erich Haber in *Katalog über die Katapultpost, Teil 1: Nordatlantik*. It is the only Canal Zone catapult listing in the Haber catalog.

Summary

Catapult airmail originating in the Canal Zone is most unusual, as indicated by the fact that there is only a single listing for it. The two covers illustrated are the only ones thus far recorded. The Cristobal cover is in the collection of one of the authors (JWG); the Balboa Heights cover is shown courtesy of its owner, Werner Helms. There may be more, but not many more. Photocopies of any others would be most appreciated.

* Former Editor, *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, Box 491472, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

** Editor, *The Airpost Journal*, East 11911 Connor Road, Valleyford, WA 99036.

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

The third quarter was saved, auctions-wise, by a few decent September sales; there would have been no column this quarter if only the vast emptiness of July and August Canal Zone offerings had been considered.

The selling price, inclusive of commission, is shown first followed by the catalogue value, in parenthesis, from the 1998 Scott's Specialized.

- 15, TG, H, VG \$990 (\$3000) Schiff
- 20, OG, NH, XF \$155 (\$45) Aldrich
- 39d, overprint reading down, sl. trop. OG, NH, F \$58 (\$175) Schiff
- 48, OG, HR, F+ \$209 (\$550) Schiff
- 52a, overprint reading down, OG, H, F \$173 (\$175) Aldrich
- 54, OG, NH, F \$48 (\$200) Schiff
- 56b, double overprint, one reading down, OG, HR, F \$460 (\$650) Aldrich
- 56c, horiz. pair, right stamp w/o overprint, the UR margins corner pair, OG, H, one stamp w/lt. crease and a small gum skip, o/w VG-F \$2070 (\$1500) Aldrich
- 71e, complete bklt. of 4 panes, OG, NH, VF \$550 (\$400) Cherrystone
- 117b, complete bklt. of 2 handmade panes, OG, NH, VF \$275 (\$450) Cherrystone
- 120-135 set on one FDC, Balb. Hts. 8/15/39 Registered to USA, VF \$109 (\$n/a) Kukstis
- CO14a, inverted overprint, F, CTO as always, signed, \$1650 (\$2500) Cherrystone
- J17, pl. bl. of 6, #15512-L, TG, H, VG-F+ \$138 (\$500) Schiff
- J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, OG, H, F in pair with normal \$403 (\$450) Aldrich
- U5, mint VF \$105 (\$200) Schiff
- UX3, (UPSS S6b), mint VF \$69 (\$190) Schiff
- SCADTA cover, Vancouver 10/14/30 to Colombia via CZ, Canada 164 and C1, Colombia C55 and C58, CZ C5, F-VF \$314 (\$n/a) Leith

The names and addresses of these auction houses are shown below. Please mention CZP as the source if you request a catalog from any.

Michael E. Aldrich Inc. Auctions
PO Box 130484
Saint Paul, MN 55113

Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers
119 West 57th St.
New York, N.Y. 10019

Kukstis Auctions, Inc.
PO Box 130
Scituate, MA 02066

Ron Leith Philatelic Auctions
Box 1507
Sumas, Washington 98295-1507

Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc.
195 Main St.
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660-1696

CZSG 1998 Mail Sale

by Jim Crumpacker

The 27th consecutive annual CZSG Mail Sale closed Sept. 27 with 945 lots offered.

Common items in VF condition sold quite nicely as did stamps with scarce cancellations. Error stamps seemed to sell only indifferently; a winning group was Precancels, which realized above (Entwistle) catalog or the estimates in most cases. Specimens were spotty.

Covers were strong only in limited areas such as postage dues; post cards with or without stamps brought good realizations to their consignors.

Of the 109 lots which drew no bid, the considerable majority were either damaged or made up of common material in common condition.

As there is no buyers' commission, the prices realized shown below represent the full cost. The first value given is the "hammer" price followed by the catalogue value, in parenthesis, from the 1998 Scott's Specialized.

- 1, used, Empire 7/9/04, a perf. tip thin o/w VF \$380 (\$425)
- 2, pr. used, one w/colon between right PANAMA and bar, on piece Culebra 7/11/04, F \$400 (\$675)
- 3, TG, VF \$360 (\$375)
- 11, 11a, ZONE antique, OG, HR, F+ pn in bl. 4 w/3 normals (\$130 (\$198)
- 12 a, used, CANAL antique, VF \$76 (\$65)
- 15 var., PANAMA's 15mm, OG, H, F-VF \$2500 (\$3250)
- 23c, double overprint, OG, HR, few blunt/raggedy perfs. o/w F-VF \$170 (\$450)
- 32c, cplt. bklt. of 4 panes, cover printed for 1¢ bklt. (CASG 32c.6), OG, NH, VF \$1250 (\$3000)
- 46, OG, HR, VF first printing \$140 (\$160)
- 60b, booklet pane of 6, dull OG, sm. HR as reinf., F-VF \$625 (\$900)
- 64, used, 8.5mm CANAL to ZONE, F \$36 (\$15)
- 66, used, F \$62 (\$100)
- 69 var., unissued "Arms" 5¢, TG, F+ \$180 (\$250)
- 73a, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, F \$62 (\$175)
- 81, OG, LH, F-VF margin copy \$170 (\$225)
- 85, 85 var., ZONE wrong font, dull OG, NH?, F in pair w/normal \$260 (\$n/a)
- 95, OG, VLH, F-VF \$85 (\$125)
- 104, pl. bl. of 4, #19235-UL, OG, NH, F-VF \$145 (\$190)
- 117a, booklet pane of 6 w/pl. #132721, OG, H, F \$46 (\$45)
- 120-135, postally used set, F-VF \$100 (\$85)
- 164a, pl. bl. of 4, dull OG as issued, NH, F-VF. Two such pl. blks. averaged \$94 (\$n/a)

C25a, horiz. pair imperf vert., OG, NH, F-VF pn \$600 (\$1000)

CO8, postally used, F \$170 (\$150)

J1, OG, NH, VF \$95 (\$85)

O8, OG, H, CTO as always, F-VF \$320 (\$675)

Specimens 38-41, OG, NH, F-VF \$50 (\$n/a)

Specimens 55, 56, 57, OG, NH, F-VF \$135 (\$n/a)

Specimens J4, J5, J6, OG, NH, F-VF \$320 (\$n/a)

C16, used, perforated "P", F \$76 (\$n/a)

U4 (UPSS 4) mint entire w/light toning and light wrinkles, F-VF \$115 (UPSS \$300)

U14, mint entire w/sm. stain spots & light wrinkles, F-VF \$160 (UPSS \$650)

U19 (UPSS 72), used Ft. Gulick 1971, VF \$78 (UPSS \$75)

UX2 (UPSS S3c) mint entire, broken O of ZONE, VF \$170 (UPSS \$250)

UX3 (UPSS S6), used Bohio 11/10/11, Hs-2a to CZ, VF \$95 (UPSS \$150)

UX5, used Culebra 6/7/22 to US, VF \$400 (UPSS \$800)

CS 11 (XMAS message on UX4) mint entire, VF \$360 (\$n/a)

3, F, on cover La Boca 7/11/04 to Colon via Crist., VF \$190 (\$325)

4, VF, on ppc Ancon 10/11/04 to US via Crist., VF \$105 (\$n/a)

12, 12a, F-VF, CANAL antique in pair w/normal, on F cover Crist. 9/7/06 to US \$180 (\$165)

22, F, on ppc San Pablo 2/8/09, Hs-11 to US, VF \$105 (\$n/a)

C5a, F, FDC 12/31/29 to US, F-VF \$190 (\$60 for stamp)

J26, J28 (both SE, F) to Ancon from US w/US stamps on F+ wrinkly cover, 1945 \$90 (\$33)

CZSG 1999 Mail Sale

Consignments for the 28th CZSG Mail Sale should be sent to arrive no later than July 5, 1999. Certificates are required for Scott 1st Issue and #15. An inventory must accompany all consignments. Damaged, soiled, or poorly centered copies of lower value stamps as well as ratty covers are respectfully declined and will be returned to the vendor. Ship material insured or registered. The sale will close in late September.

Please send material to Richard H. Salz, 60-27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121-1026.

We Need Authors!

Scott 1999 Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers by Jim Crumpacker

The price moves in the 1999 Scott's Specialized Postage Stamp Catalogue were few and small compared to 1998.

First, some price changes followed by a brief discussion, all prices are for OG copies unless otherwise stated.

Scott	1998	1999
7	\$160	\$175
7, pl. bl. of 6, Impt.	1900	3000
8, pl. bl. of 6, Impt.	2300	2750
13	20	22.50
14	27.50	30
19	50	55
30	37.50	40
35	55	50
51	50	45
55b	1500	1750
55e	1750	1500
59	150	160
76 FDC	no list	600
80, pl. bl. of 6	1750	2750
81, pl. bl. of 6	4000	4250
95, pl. bl. of 6	1600	2000
J13, pl. bl. of 6	750	800
J20c	500	425
O8, CTO	675	625
U19 entire, used	2	3
U21 entire, used	75¢	1.25

The changes in plate blocks prices were auction driven, with sales at Shreve's mostly responsible for the upward movement. Indeed, all of the major revisions seem to have resulted from auction results and not dealer input.

The addition of the No. 76 FDC resulted from an offering in the 1997 CZSG Mail Sale.

There was no price movement at all in the No. 105-114 set and practically none in the No. 120-135 set.

For airmail, inflation level increases took in many of the C15-C41 group. Dues were quiescent, the only serious changes are shown above.

A few upward price shifts amounting to 25¢-\$1.25 were the only changes in later Postal Stationery and were essentially all in the 'used' column. Proofs pricing remained the same.

A minor complaint might still be made about cover pricing but usage, town of origin, destination, and other factors combine with a lack of trades and frequent auction results to militate against much in the way of firm price definition, especially in the early issues. Next year, it would be nice to see 'on cover' prices beginning with Scott 105 plus the airmail, not just listings for first day covers. The Sanabria North America Catalogue attempted this for airmail-related issues with their 1995 publication and did a pretty good job.

J18-J19-J20

Recent studies by Dr. W. Wallace Cleland have revealed interesting aspects of J19, the 2¢ Sharp A postage due stamp. The study of the 2¢ revealed offset plate numbers on the backs different from the printed numbers on the face of these postage due stamps. Cleland's study, with additional input from CZSG members will be printed in an early issue of CZP. It is his intent to extend the study to the 1¢ and 10¢ of this Sharp A issue.

An unusual distribution of quantities reported of positions and plate numbers has shown up in the initial study which needs to be confirmed. The help of our members is solicited. Photocopies of all plate number blocks (front and back) together with any unusual material relating to all three stamps should be sent to Dr. Cleland or to the Editor. Address: Dr. W. Wallace Cleland, 1710 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705.

Mail Sale No. 27 Report

Jerry Craig, Mail Sale Manager

Mail Sale No. 27 is now completed. Thirty-three consignors provided 944 lots of which 841 were sold to 162 (out of 201) bidders. The 841 lots sold for \$43,943 and had a Cat-Est value of \$81,819. The cost of running the mail sale was \$2,852 with much of that amount being used for printing (\$982.56) and mailing (\$1,447.90) expenses. Insurance (\$205) and supplies & miscellaneous (\$216.54) account for the rest of the cost. Net proceeds to the Study Group totaled \$1,542.30.

Lot No. 12 (No. 3 unused) and Lot No. 520 (C16 perf P) attracted 9 bids each, while Lot No. 284 (cancellation collection) attracted 11 bids. Lot No. 581 (UX3 used), Lot No. 690 (small French Canal bond) and Lot No. 844 (PPC with San Pablo CDs) each had 14 bids. Lot No. 929 (playing cards) received 31 bids!

Thanks to all the consignors of material and the bidders for their bids, most all of whom were considerate of the fact that this was the first time that I have managed the sale. A special thanks to Dick Salz, Bill Kuttner, Dick Bates and Bob Karrer for their assistance, consul and encouragement. Lastly, a big thanks to Ruth Anne, my wife, for her many hours of computer work spent on the project, and especially for her work in preparing the catalog for printing.

Corrections:

Ref: CZP 128, p.23, Figs. 8 and 9:

Correct captions should be
Plate Cancellation Proof
as in several places in the text.

Review of Video Tape

by David L. Farnsworth

A Man, A Plan, A Canal, Panama, narrated, written and presented by David McCullough, produced and directed by Carl Charlson, NOVA #1415, a WGBH production in association with the British Broadcasting Corporation, © 1987, about one hour, VHS tape, closed captioned, available from WGBH Boston Video, P.O. Box 64619, St. Paul, MN 55164-0619, phone 1-800-255-9424 or 1-800-225-0540, \$19.95 + shipping if from WGBH.

This is a superb video version of McCullough's 1977 book *The Path Between the Seas*, which was reviewed in CZP 45:27. Of course, the complete story cannot be told in a one-hour tape. The creation of the canal is presented in a broad and dramatic manner. The narration is eloquent. McCullough uses his hallmark turn of phrase, such as describing the canal as the "engineering marvel of the age" and the "moon shot of its era." He points out that the use of locks means that ships go "up and over Panama," which is a vivid way of expressing this. Much of the drama is shown in first class movies and still photographs, which are mostly panned to keep viewers' interest. There are no "talking heads" or other boring presentation techniques used in this video.

After a brief introduction, the tape has three parts. "The Pioneers" concerns the French effort. "The Builders" is about the successful completion of the canal. "Epilogue" is a brief portion that corresponds to the "Afterward" of McCullough's book and describes what happened to Gorgas, Stevens, and others after the canal was completed.

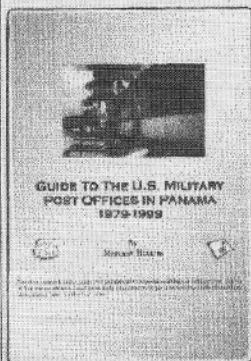
Five themes are apparent in the presentation. One is **connections**. For example, the Spanish-American War led to knowledge about yellow fever which in turn helped make Panama safer for the builders. Another example is the relationship between the building of the railroads in the United States after the Civil War and the extensive use of railroads in building the canal. A second theme is **timing**. For example, the technology of electrical motors for controls and medical science's new discoveries about yellow fever were not available to the French.

A third theme is **size**. This theme is an easy one to see from the films and the statistics. A fourth theme is **innovation**. The plow that was invented to clear spoil from a line of flat rail cars and a steam-powered track shifter are shown at work. A fifth theme is **personalities**. Examining the roles of Stevens, Gorgas, President Roosevelt, and others helps explain events and makes the story more lively.

Nowhere on the tape is the palindromic nature of the title mentioned.

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